

**REMARKS**

The present application includes claims 1-3, 5-9, and 11-22. Claims 1-3, 6, and 22 were rejected, claims 5 and 7-9 were objected to, and claims 11-21 were allowed. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 22 have been amended, claim 5 has been cancelled, and new claims 23-27 have been added. Claims 4 and 10 were cancelled in a previous amendment.

Claims 1-3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Zahn et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,534,471).

Claims 6 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zahn in view of DiVincenzon (U.S. Patent No. 4,763,855).

Claims 5 and 7-9 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

Claims 11-21 were allowed.

In the Office Action mailed on April 24, 2007, the Examiner stated that claims 5 and 7-9 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite the limitations of claim 5. Claim 22 has been amended to recite the limitations of claim 7. New claim 23 has been added, and recites the limitations of claim 8. New claim 24, which depends from new claim 23, has been added, and recites the limitations of claim 9.

Additionally, new claims 25-27, which depend from claim 1, have been added, and recite the limitations of two, three, and four rungs, respectively.

Therefore, the Applicants believe that the rejections of claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Zahn and claims 6 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zahn in view of DiVincenzon are moot, and that claims 1-3, 6-9, and 11-27 are in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, for the reasons stated above, the Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-3, 6-9, and 11-27 are in condition for allowance.

**CONCLUSION**

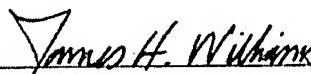
The Applicants respectfully submit that the claims of the present application are in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner has any questions or the Applicants may be of any assistance, the Examiner is invited and encouraged to contact the Attorney for Applicants at the number below.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any necessary fees or credit any overpayment to the Deposit Account No. 16-0228.

Respectfully submitted,

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